



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 9, 2005
Week Ending: May 8, 2005
CWP WA-CW1905

Scattered Showers in Most Areas Winter Wheat Showed Signs of Stress

Field Crops

Scattered showers off and on were in most areas. However, precipitation levels were still short. A severe hail and rain storm occurred in the Royal City area, causing some structural damage. The high winds caused damage to alfalfa stands, seed crops, and green peas. Most of the spring grains were seeded and emerged in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties. Lincoln County spring cereal seeding was mostly complete. Pacific County Christmas tree growers initiated weed control activities. Winter wheat showed signs of stress in some areas due to lack of moisture. Corn planted was behind schedule. First cutting for alfalfa continued.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 9% very poor, 23% poor, 23% fair, 44% good, and 1% excellent. Pacific County shellfish farmers moved seed oysters to intertidal ground and continued harvest operations. Many Chelan and Douglas County livestock producers were interested in drilling wells and developing springs for water because of dry lakes and creeks. Livestock were on pastures.

Fruits and Vegetables

New plantings of sweet cherries in Douglas and Chelan Counties will be bearing this year increasing total production. Asparagus harvest continued. Blueberry plants began to blossom as farmers continued seed bed preparation for spring planting.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.5
Last Week	6.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	20	71	7
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	14	78	5
Subsoil	23	44	32	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	21	75	1
Irrigation Water	13	16	71	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	4	95	1
Hay & Roughage	2	26	71	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	99	100	96
Spring Wheat Emerged	80	64	90	78
Spring Wheat Headed	2	0	0	0
Winter Wheat Headed	14	7	7	4
Barley Planted	91	76	100	93
Barley Emerged	64	45	92	74
Barley Headed	1	0	0	0
Potatoes Planted	93	84	95	92
Potatoes Emerged	52	46	54	44
Corn Planted	45	39	80	68
Corn Emerged	14	8	26	11
Dry Edible Beans Planted	55	44	97	32
Proc. Green Peas Planted	97	92	99	84
Dry Peas Planted	85	73	98	81
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	5	2	7	5

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	22	62	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	9	78	13
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	2	50	47	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	3	1	22	73	1
Barley Dryland	0	2	44	53	1
Barley Irrigated	0	0	43	52	5
Potatoes	0	0	8	72	20

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

- Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Last week was the driest since early March, but showers still prevented most farmers from getting into fields. Drier weather is predicted, so farmers should be able to do fieldwork soon.

Kitsap: Area farmers were still ahead of schedule on early vegetable production. All local Farmer's Markets were in operation. Pasture forage was in very good condition due to the frequent rains.

Mason: Pastures were producing well and animals were out foraging. Local vegetable growers began their CSA season, and Farmer's Markets opened Saturday with successful sales. Greenhouse plants were producing well and plant sales were in full force.

Pacific: Much welcomed dry spring weather provided producers with an opportunity to complete early season field activities. Final soil preparation was completed for row crops. Cranberry, raspberry, and Christmas tree growers initiated weed control activities. Shellfish farmers

moved seed oysters to intertidal ground and continued harvest operations.

Pierce/South King: Weather conditions remained favorable throughout the South Puget Sound area with light rain and sunny periods. There were no unusual situations or reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was dry and mild. Farmers were able to do fieldwork.

Snohomish/King: Just a few scattered showers were received during the week. Fieldwork continued with discing and planting. Grass silage harvesting and manure spreading continued. Blueberries and some strawberries were in full bloom. Hybrid poplars were in full leaf.

Thurston: Weather conditions were fine at Gull Harbor, but the snow pack was gone in the Ahtanum. Most irrigators won't get their water allotments very soon.

Central

Benton: Recent rain improved soil moisture but increased fungal problems. Irrigation, weed control, and asparagus cutting were major activities.

Chelan/Douglas: Precipitation received throughout the county during the week was measurable. The rain will greatly improve the wheat crop and pastures. All livestock have been released into spring pastures. Forage was down from normal due to the dry year. Emergency Conservation Program funding has been approved for both counties. Many livestock producers were interested in drilling wells and developing springs for water because of the dry lakes and creeks. The fruit crop looked good. The cherry crop is expected to be the biggest ever, because new plantings of the crop will be coming into production this year. The apple crop is also expected to be large.

Franklin: The first cutting of alfalfa hay began. A small percentage has been swathed and was drying. Periodic small rains were slowing down the process. In the southern part of the county wheat was heading. Asparagus harvest was slow going early in the week due to the cool weather, but it has picked up again.

Franklin (2nd Report): Light showers and cool weather prevailed over the first week and a half of the month. Precipitation received so far was 0.19", which is a little above normal. This will be a make or break month for the 2005 dryland wheat crop. Range conditions have improved slightly. Asparagus harvest was in full swing. The first cutting of hay began in limited fields at the southern end of the county. Most of the potato acreage has been planted. Other row crops like peas and beans were in the process of being planted.

Grant: There was limited hail damage to the first cutting of uncut alfalfa in a 20 square mile area near Royal City. Growers plan to cut early.

Grant (2nd Report): Heavy rains were received over the weekend. The rain will improve moisture conditions for dryland wheat and pasture land. In the Royal City area, there were reports of a severe hail and rain storm with as much as 3" of hail and rain falling in a 45 minute period. The high winds, around 50 mph, caused damage to orchards, alfalfa stands, seed crops and green peas. More rain is expected.

Kittitas: The county received the best rain of the season this past week. Although the final amount is not known, the Valley received a little less than an inch of rain over the weekend.

Klickitat: Very heavy rains were received over the weekend. Pasture conditions were the best in many years.

Okanogan/Ferry: The counties received seven days of good weather that allowed producers to be out in their fields. Portions of the county received up to 0.01" of precipitation during the week. Temperatures were normal for this time of year. Fruit crops looked good with no reports of damage. The winter wheat crop looked good. Spring grain plantings were nearly complete. The higher elevations have not been planted yet. All cattle have been turned out to spring pastures. Most reports from producers indicated pasture conditions were fair to good. There is some need for livestock water development. Irrigated hay crops looked good at this time.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 to 9 degrees above normal, with 0.25" of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: A few rain showers that fell over the weekend added a tenth or two of precipitation to many gauges. Producers were still waiting for the million dollar rains. Spring grain crops on dryland were heading toward critical stages. Winter wheat continued to look good, but it also needs a big rain to make grain out of the abundant foliage. Canola bloomed and potato planting wrapped up, while hay cutters were poised to begin the first cutting when the weather pattern settles. Annual grasses in pastures headed out and were much shorter than normal.

Asotin: Some rainfall helped crop conditions and pastures during the week; however, rainfall was spotty in many parts of the county. Continued timely rainfall will be needed if winter wheat and spring barley is to make average yields at harvest.

Asotin/Garfield: Scattered rain showers were welcomed to the area Wednesday through Sunday, providing temporary relief to crops and pastures. Totals ranged from 0.15" to over 1.0" in some places. With very low subsoil moisture, additional timely rains will be needed. Prior to the rains Wednesday, crops were showing signs of stress, especially recrop winter wheat and barley.

Lincoln: Precipitation was spotty throughout the county. Topsoil moisture was mostly adequate. Subsoil moisture, although slowly improving, continued to be in short and very short supply. Winter wheat throughout the county was looking very nice and was in mostly good to excellent condition. Spring cereal seeding was nearly 100 percent completed and remained in fair condition. The spring cereals will improve with precipitation and will decline if conditions remain dry.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Dryland winter wheat was drying up and turning yellow/red in areas of shallow soil and hard pan areas. Leaves on the wheat showed tips browning due to the recent frost and dry conditions.

Pend Oreille: A warming trend began mid-week, with hay fields recovering nicely from cold weather. New growth was very apparent. Livestock were moved to pastures.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Scattered rain showers off and on during the later part of the week were very welcomed. Areas of the county received up to 1" of rain. This amount varied across the county. Most of the spring grains were seeded and began emerging. Pasture and hay looked pretty good. Winter wheat and bluegrass crops were also looking pretty good.

Stevens: Pasture growth has been excellent.

Stevens (2nd Report): A few rain showers occurred during the week, but nothing of real significance. Cow and calves continued to be moved to pastures. Grain crops, alfalfa, and pastures were all growing well.

Walla Walla: Spring conditions continued to be favorable. The temperatures have been cool with spring showers. One inch of rain was received on Friday, and thunderstorms were received over the weekend.

Whatcom: Blueberry plants began to blossom as farmers continued seed bed preparation for spring planting. Potato growers began planting seed potatoes. Extreme lowlands remained under standing water. High temperatures for the week averaged 5 degrees below normal at 63 degrees. Lows for the week averaged 4 degrees higher than normal at 47 degrees. Precipitation that fell during the week was 0.16".

Whitman: Pea and lentil planting was well underway and should be finished in a couple of weeks.

Whitman (2nd Report): Passing showers brought relief to areas of the county, but totals were not very significant. Widespread drenching rains are needed to bring crops along. Winter wheat in the western half of the county looked stressed in areas.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 9, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	42	67	55	4	35	19	0	0	0.17	-0.39	2	33.36	3.23	111	123
Everett	48	69	57	5	47	26	1	1	0.05	-0.51	1	22.38	-7.72	74	123
Hoquiam	47	65	56	5	43	23	0	0	0.74	-0.07	3	49.29	-11.38	81	144
Kelso	48	72	60	8	68	45	3	3	0.50	-0.11	3	21.68	-18.18	54	99
Olympia	39	66	57	7	50	36	0	0	0.41	-0.14	4	33.13	-12.46	73	128
Sea-Tac	48	68	57	5	53	29	1	1	0.07	-0.35	3	25.84	-6.86	79	108
Shelton	44	68	56	3	45	17	0	0	0.20	-0.43	2	46.78	-12.79	79	120
Tacoma	45	66	58	5	55	29	0	0	0.19	-0.30	3	22.24	-12.17	65	97
Vancouver	46	71	60	8	71	47	4	4	0.51	-0.05	4	23.06	-13.00	64	117
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	42	74	59	8	66	43	5	5	0.04	-0.08	4	4.37	-3.00	59	64
Stampede Pass	39	62	51	13	9	9	0	0	0.12	-0.75	5	52.28	-20.27	72	135
Wenatchee	48	77	61	6	79	34	13	10	0.00	-0.14	0	4.33	-2.39	64	51
Yakima AP	38	77	60	7	69	35	6	6	0.24	0.17	5	4.68	-1.85	72	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	36	77	59	8	63	43	4	4	0.29	-0.13	3	14.59	-1.62	90	74
Deer Park	41	69	54	4	32	12	0	0	0.61	0.26	5	13.98	-0.44	97	88
Spokane AP	46	68	55	5	37	19	0	0	0.42	0.14	5	8.67	-4.12	68	76
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	42	79	61	5	79	29	12	5	0.11	0.04	1	3.52	-2.25	61	44
Moses Lake	41	77	60	4	71	21	8	1	0.29	0.22	2	3.79	-1.98	66	43
Quincy	41	77	61	6	80	36	14	13	0.05	-0.03	2	3.50	-2.70	56	39
Ritzville	42	71	56	5	42	21	0	0	0.19	-0.02	1	6.16	-3.04	67	46
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	46	78	63	4	93	21	23	9	0.11	0.04	2	2.73	-2.49	52	35
Pasco	47	79	63	5	93	33	23	15	0.12	0.00	2	3.67	-2.45	60	49
Pullman	46	68	55	6	36	22	0	0	0.21	-0.14	3	4.54	-12.38	27	55
Whitman Miss.	35	75	60	6	69	30	8	8	0.10	-0.18	2	7.81	-3.16	71	75
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	43	70	55	3	37	13	1	1	0.14	-0.28	3	9.64	-10.62	48	59
Lewiston ID	47	74	60	6	74	31	8	8	0.89	0.61	4	7.58	-1.17	87	71

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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